

QUARTERLY REPORT (OCT 1 – DEC 31, 2005)

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE: DELIBERATIVE BODIES IQC

Submitted to:



U.S. Agency for International Development
Under Contract No. AEP-I-00-00-00004-00 (CLIN 007)

Authors:

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Submitted by:



*2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300
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January 2006



January 31, 2006

Mr. Keith Schulz
Democracy Center, Global Bureau (G/DG)
Room 6.07-071, Ronald Reagan Building
Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523-2052

Dear Mr. Schulz:

The Deliberative Bodies IQC (CLIN 007) that Development Associates is currently implementing for USAID stipulates that we provide a Performance Monitoring Report to our COTR on a quarterly basis.

Development Associates herewith submits our report covering the quarter just ended. We believe this meets our responsibility under Section G.9 (a) of the contract. Included in it is the Quarterly Financial Report required under Section G.9 (b). A copy also is being sent to the USAID/W Contracting Officer.

If you have any questions or comments about this submission, please be in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jack Sullivan'.

John H. (Jack) Sullivan
Executive Associate

cc: Joseph Lentini, USAID/M/OP/G/DGHCA

Enclosure: As stated

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QUARTERLY REPORT (OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2005) ON THE DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE DELIBERATIVE BODIES IQC (CLIN 007) AEP I-00-00-00004-00

I. BASIC DATA ON THE ACTIVE TASK ORDERS

- ▶ **Uganda/Legislative Support Activity.** *Contract No. OUT-AEP-I-00-00-00004-00, Task Order No. 804. Period of Performance: 5/1/02 – 6/30/06. Amount: \$3,143,642.*

The 7th Parliament of Uganda took office on July 3, 2001, for a five-year term. Its most serious problems include size (it has 305 members) and management (made more difficult by size and by lack of political party representation); lack of skills; lack of information; poor legislative drafting; and poor credibility, both with the public and with the Executive Branch. All of these problems are compounded by the fact that over half of the MPs are newly-elected, and cannot rely on the institutional memory and informal networks that helped their predecessors.

Development Associates and its partner, Development Alternatives, were competitively awarded this Task Order under our Deliberative Bodies IQC, in order to advance the Mission's Strategic Objective of More Effective and Participatory Governance. The TO assigns five tasks to the contractor: 1) building human and institutional capacity through training; 2) fostering increased constituent services and dialogue; 3) strengthening legislative drafting; 4) promoting ethics and anti-corruption measures; and 5) fostering systems for free and fair elections. Approximately half of the total effort is to be devoted to the first task. The tasks will be carried out through short and long-term technical assistance; organization of in-country and third-country workshops, conferences, training, and observation tours; collection and dissemination of information on legislative norms, standards and practices from democratic countries; procurement and installation of necessary information systems hardware and software; and organization of conferences and seminars to bring together MPs and civil society and local government representatives.

DA has an office in Kampala staffed by an experienced American professional and a skilled Ugandan staff of six. On March 21, 2005, the project was extended from March 24, 2005, to June 30, 2006, and the contract value was increased from \$1.94 million to \$3.14 million.

Client references: Marie-Claire Sow, Contracting Officer, USAID/Uganda, tel. 256-41-387-387, email mcsow@usaid.gov, and Susan Cowley, Cognizant Technical Officer, USAID/Uganda, tel. 256-41-387-387, fax 256-41-387-293, email scowley@usaid.gov.

- **Armenia/Legislative Strengthening Program II.** *Contract No. OUT-AEP-I-00-00-00004-00, Task Order No. 805. Period of Performance: 9/1/04-8/31/07. Amount: \$2,483,853.00.*

This project focuses on:

Task 1: Facilitate and institutionalize the involvement of Armenia's legislative community to advocate, lobby and advice the National Assembly on policy and legislative issues;

Task 2: Improve the functioning of key committees and departments of the National Assembly by having them work closer with the legislative community in jointly analyzing, researching, commenting on and drafting legislation;

Task 3: Improve the ability of select units and individuals within the National Assembly to be more transparent, representative and responsive to citizen priorities, interests and concerns; and

Task 4: Develop the National Assembly's ability to improve oversight of the executive branch through existing mechanisms and, to the extent possible, through assisting in the creation of new mechanisms via constitutional and legislative amendments.

The activities of the Armenia Legislative Strengthening Program II¹ support the USAID/Armenia's 2004-2008 Strategy, specifically Strategic Objective 2.1, "Improved Democratic Governance." ALSP II's activities and results will directly contribute to IR 2: "Targeted Governance Institutions Strengthened" and sub-IR 2.1.2: "More Responsive and Effective Parliament." It also will contribute to IR 1: "Civic Participation Expanded."

This project takes a positive approach to achieving the four tasks identified at the beginning of ALSP II. Although the improvement of any legislative body requires patience and consistent attention to processes and procedures, results are obtainable and measurable. In any institutional body, however, innovation alarms those who fail to immediately recognize benefits and resistance to change should be expected. Nevertheless, ALSP I and the first half of ALSP II are success stories, marked by a wide range of quantifiable administrative and policy improvements.

ALSP works directly with the National Assembly, as well as targeted staff to achieve project goals. ALSP employs a mixture of technical assistance, training, limited inputs of commodities, and one-on-one consultations to build internal capacity for technical as well as procedural changes, and promote the sustainability of these goals. ALSP Phase II conducts its activities in close coordination with the other international organizations providing assistance to the Assembly in order to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts.

The client references are: Technical Officer, Bella Markarian, email: bmarkarian@usaid.gov, and Contracting Officer, David Brown, email: dbrown@usaid.gov, USAID/Yerevan, Phone: 37410-52-99-75, 58-61-63, 543-835, fax 374-10-543-874.

¹The Armenia Legislative Strengthening Program, currently under the direction of Development Associates, Inc., generally is referred to as "ALSP" throughout this document. The first phase of the program is referred to as "ALSP I."

II. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AND PROGRESS MADE

UGANDA

A. PROGRESS THIS QUARTER

1. *Introduction and Summary*

During this quarter, Development Associates/Uganda Legislative Support Activity (DA/LSA) continued to implement the Task Order in close partnership with the USAID/Uganda Mission and the Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO) of Parliament.

Legislative Support Activity (LSA) planned, coordinated, organized, facilitated, attended and participated a number of activities: **a)** Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) Regional Consultative Workshop (Eastern), **b)** Comprehensive Distribution of Persons With Disabilities Regional Workshop Reports (3), **c)** HIV/AIDS Regional Forum in northern Uganda, **d)** Parliamentary Briefer, **e)** Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services (MEMS): Targets for Indicators and Annual Report, **f)** Attended and participated in USAID's Partners Meeting (RE: Democracy, Governance and Conflict Expanded Team and Partners Meeting), and **g)** Submitted Concept Paper to USAID (Re: Anti – Corruption).

2. *Significant Activities During this Quarter*

a) Persons With Disabilities Regional Consultative Workshop (Eastern)

The Eastern Regional Consultative Workshop was the third regional consultative workshop for Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2005. It was held at Rock Classic Hotel in Tororo, from **October 20, 2005 – October 22, 2005**. Participants were invited from eighteen (18) districts in eastern Uganda (Tororo, Bugiri, Jinja, Iganga, Kamuli, Soroti, Mbale, Moroto, Kotido, Katakwi, Busia, Mayuge, Pallisa, Kumi, Kapchorwa, Sironko, Kaberamaido, and Nakapiripit).

The workshop was designed to afford Persons With Disabilities to provide input to the Persons With Disabilities Bill 2005 which is now before Parliament. The workshop theme was “Towards A Comprehensive Law on Disability”. Key presenters at the workshop were: Mrs. Ndibegama Ndawula, Chief Legislative Counsel, Parliament of Uganda, Mr. Samson Masiga, Principal Rehabilitation Officer, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Hon. James Mwandha, Chair, Persons With Disability Parliamentary Group, and Hon. Alex Ndeezi, Deputy Chair, Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities. Mrs. Ndawula gave an overview of the Persons With Disabilities Bill, No. 18 of 2005. Mr. Masiga provided an analysis of the National Council for Disability Act 14 of 2003. A presentation was made by Hon. Dorothy Hyuha, Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Social Services. The draft law for Persons With Disabilities is before this Committee for scrutiny and further actions.

b) Comprehensive Distribution of Persons With Disabilities Regional Consultative Workshops Reports (3)

LSA developed an information dissemination campaign relative to activities of Persons With Disabilities. (Re: Regional Consultative Workshops, “Towards a Comprehensive Law on Disability”). A total of 1,042 reports were strategically distributed. **See Table 3 (page 18).**



(L – R) Hon. James Mwandha [standing] (physically impaired, Char, Persons With Disabilities Parliamentary Group, and Eastern Representative), Hon. Margaret Baba Diri (visually impaired, Deputy Chair, Persons With Disabilities Parliamentary Group and Northern Representative), Hon. Alex Ndeezi (hearing impaired, Central Representative – Deputy Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities), Mr. Jackson Mirembe (Senior Rehabilitation Officer, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development) at a discussion during the Eastern Regional Consultative Workshop on Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) held at Rock Classic Hotel, Tororo, in Eastern Uganda (October 20 – 22, 2005).



Group photograph: *(L – R) Hon. Alex Ndeezi (hearing impaired, Central Representative – Deputy Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities), Parliamentary Intern, Hon. James Mwandha (physically impaired, Chair, Persons With Disabilities Parliamentary Group, and Eastern Representative), Hon. Baba Diri (visually impaired, Deputy Chair, Persons With Disabilities Parliamentary Group, and Northern Representative) Parliamentary Intern/Research Assistant (seated) and extreme right standing is Hon. Dorothy Hyuha, Chairperson, Parliamentary Social Services Committee during the Eastern Regional Consultative Workshop on Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) held at Rock Classic Hotel, Tororo, in Eastern Uganda (October 20 – 22, 2005).*

c) HIV/AIDS Regional Forum in northern Uganda

The HIV/AIDS Regional Forum on Northern Uganda was held on the 26th November 2005, in Gulu at the Acholi Inn. The Forum was the initiative of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the Planning and Development Coordination office (PDCO). The objective was to get the Committee informed about how the fight against HIV/AIDS is executed in the Northern Region of Uganda. The Committee was to get an overall view of what was happening in the various districts of northern Uganda, what strategies had been adopted, where emphasis was being put and what modifications were needed in the current interventions in order to make interventions more effective and beneficial to the communities in the region.

Northern Uganda is composed of West Nile (with Arua, Moyo, Nebbi and Yumbe districts), North Central (with Lira, Apac, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts) and the North East (with Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kotido, Kumi, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Soroti districts). The North Central area has experienced a lot of turmoil for the last 19 years and the population has been largely unsettled due to the civil war and/or insurgency.

Introductory Remarks by Dr. Richard Bulamu, Deputy Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS

Dr. Richard Bulamu, Deputy Chairperson Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS, gave the introductory remarks on behalf of the Hon. Minister of State for Northern Uganda, Hon. Grace Akello, who had had an accident and had been subsequently hospitalized. He also conveyed apologies from Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS, who was not able to attend the Forum due to other pressing national duties.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Dr. Bulamu stated that this forum on HIV/AIDS in the Northern Region of Uganda was a follow up to the national forum that had taken place the previous year in 2004. He stated that, “HIV/AIDS is regarded as a disaster. However, in some places it is a loud disaster whereas in other areas it is silent,” and what defines it as either silent or loud depends on the data compiled on it in its various aspects, information about it and what knowledge that the infected and affected people have about it. To this end, the Parliament of Uganda had set up a permanent Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS. This Committee is mandated to back the Legislature and Government in making law to support all efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. But in order to do so, the legislation must be backed by facts and informed scientific knowledge. In this regard, the Uganda AIDS Commission is the right hand partner of the Committee in supplying the facts about the disease and advising the Committee.

The Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS therefore organized the forum for northern Uganda, with the following objectives:

1. Get information about what was taking place in the northern region about HIV/AIDS;
2. Discuss the best strategies to suit the situation in the region based on HIV/AIDS implementers' experiences; and
3. Develop ideas on areas where emphasis should be placed regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in northern Uganda, given the prevailing environment.

Introductory Remarks by Dr. Richard Bulamu (continued)

Dr. Bulamu concluded his introductory remarks by mentioning that it's the hope of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS that by the end of the Forum, the above objectives are accomplished.

Forum participants included: Dr. Jim Arinaitwe, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Uganda AIDS Commission, Dr. Elizabeth Namagala of the Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) Program and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in the Ministry of Health, Mr. Robert Ochai, Deputy Executive Director of the AID Support Organizations (TASO), World Vision Gulu, Mr. Okot Lakach, District Local Council, HIV/AIDS Focal Persons, and others.

The Uganda AIDS Commission undertook a mapping exercise to capture information on who (or which agency) is doing what and where on HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The Forum was informed that apart from two activities, i.e., Information, Education and Communication (IEC); and condom distribution stakeholders, less than 45% of sub counties had any HIV/AIDS stakeholders that provide any services. It was surprising that Life Skills Training was the lowest activity undertaken by the stakeholders, being undertaken in only nine (9) out of one thousand one hundred and sixty three (1163) sub counties, which is only 1%. The maps also showed many activities in various districts. However, most of those activities did not reach the rural poor and mostly extended in a radius of between 5km – 10km around urban centers. This was partly due to donor conditionalities who picked what intervention they preferred to provide, and in which locations. Local stakeholders did not feel empowered enough to direct the donors to where there was the greatest need. They were just too happy to get funding. In the process, it was noted that there was duplication of services and care. This also led to lopsided distribution of services and location of stakeholders.

According to The AIDS Support Organization (TASO), the duplication of activities by the stakeholders leads to wasteful competition. Therefore, there is need to promote synergy in the networking of the various partners, and foster change in attitude among different stakeholders in order to enhance complementary working relationships.

Issues and Activities were Cited

Another problem highlighted was the lack of data collection. Many stakeholders regarded each other as competitors and hence did not want to share information. Others simply did not have reliable statistics. Nevertheless, the Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) intends to develop their mapping database further, so that it can reflect Monitoring and Evaluation indicators. And if funds allow, will take into account the newly created districts and also go to the lower sub county levels to present a more realistic picture on the ground.

In the presentation by the Ministry of Health Uganda was referred to as a country widely talked about with a success story in the fight against HIV/AIDS that has been due to openness about the epidemic. At the time that most countries were denying the presence of HIV/AIDS in their countries, Uganda was openly declaring that she had a problem. HIV/AIDS prevalence dropped from a high of thirty percent (30%) in 1992, to between six percent (6%) and seven percent (7%) since the year 2000. However, the Northern Region presents a mixed picture with the highest prevalence of 9.4% (10.5% for women) in the North Central. Besides the northern region,

Kampala with 12.5% has a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and West Nile has the lowest percentage of HIV/AIDS infection, with 2.6%.

The Ministry of Health indicated a problem of ensuring sustainability of funding for all its HIV/AIDS programmes, since it is so donor dependent. It openly admitted that interventions targeting disturbed areas and the internally displaced persons are still inadequate. The personnel are overworked and poorly remunerated. However, the Ministry of Health intends to scale up HIV/AIDS prevention programs as well as care and support interventions so that they target the underserved areas and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The Forum was presented with a more local case of Gulu district. Gulu is one of the northern districts that have been hard hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. While the national prevalence rate stand at seven percent (7%), the North Central part is at nine (9%). At Lacor Hospital, the prevalence rate was eleven point nine percent (11.9%).

The UN report of July 2005 ranked HIV/AIDS as the second greatest killer disease after malaria in Northern Uganda. The insurgency in the area for the last 19 years has disrupted all services. Abject poverty has led the youth to indulge in risky commercial sex as a means of survival. Communities have had increasing interaction with people Living with HIV/AIDS, e.g., with Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) soldiers who rape, defile and commit other atrocities. The disoriented culture of civilians in Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps also contributes to the spread of the infections. There has been economic, social and cultural degeneration. Services are therefore inadequate to combat the pandemic.

In spite of the great need of HIV/AIDS testing services in Gulu, the district has only one (1) CD4 count machine and has no reliable transport for both the health workers and the patients.

Testing kits that are supplied are inadequate due to demand exceeding previously projected demand. Mobility of the population, including soldiers and local (camp) residents, creates difficulties in service delivery. Changing of places of residents makes it hard to follow them up especially when clients are on Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART) or Tuberculosis (TB) treatment. The "nomadic" sort of existence of the majority of the population due to the war makes adherence to treatment regimens and monitoring of clients very difficult. The District AIDS Committee (DAC) does not seem to be sufficiently facilitated to be effective (this was a complaint echoed by all the other districts as well). Again the appeal was to expand care, treatment and other services to the underserved areas, train more health workers, get more facilitation (financial and provision of equipment e.g., CD4 machines and transport).

Although The AIDS Support Organization services had appeared on the scene comparatively recently, many participants had only praises for their services. There are 4,529 individuals living with HIV/AIDS who have benefited from The AIDS Support Organization services since 2004. This number continues to grow daily. They conduct training services and demand for training is growing. They pay better so their staff is more motivated. The AIDS Support Organization has introduced giving food to their clients and carries out Home Based Voluntary Counseling and Testing (HBVCT) services. This means that they have the ability to monitor their clients better than the other agencies.

The AIDS Support Organization Centre has its own premises for service delivery. It also houses the Regional office in Gulu. According to the presentation by The AIDS Support Organization, there is confidence and support from People Living With AIDS (Pleas), which is demonstrated by the large number that turns up to take advantage of The AIDS Support Organization services.

Nevertheless, The AIDS Support Organization reiterated the problems that the other agencies had pointed out saying that maintaining the commitment and momentum for HIV/AIDS control programmes is difficult, given that the public is often preoccupied with worries of daily survival. In such a situation, the threat of death due to AIDS tends to fade into background compared to the more immediate concerns of inadequacy of food, safe water, personal security, etc.

The experience of Lacor Hospital (a few kilometers out of Gulu town) demonstrated the hassle of working in a poor resource setting. The hospital is located in a catchment area with a prevalence rate of HIV/AIDs at eleven point nine percent (11.9%).

Lacor Hospital has only one (1) physician and a bed capacity of four hundred and seventy two (472). The actual number of patients is over one thousand (1,000) per day.

The hospital has an AIDS clinic that has over nine thousand (9,000) registered patients, with only one (1) Infectious Diseases Specialist, one (1) Medical Officer and fifteen (15) Counselors. Lacor Hospital has no CD4 count machine at all and Viral loads (VLs) cannot be done locally.

Available statistics at the hospital show that the age range that is most affected by HIV/AIDS is that of people between 30 – 39 years of age. This regarded as the most productive age. Therefore, the socio-economic impact to the development of the region is devastating. The females comprise sixty three percent (63%) and the men thirty seven percent (37%) of the patients/clients seen. However, because the men are more financially independent, some of them go to Kampala for treatment or they have relatives or friends who send them drugs from abroad. This skews the data of the situation on the ground.

The experience of World Vision showed some of the alternative approaches that can be adopted in working in this region. The Forum was informed that, according to World Vision's experience, Community Based Volunteers (CBV) are more effective in handling HIV/AIDS clients. World Vision also noted that Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) play a very important role in prevention, and care for families affected by HIV and AIDS. World Vision also provides food aid to households affected by HIV and AIDS. These alternative approaches were adopted because the conventional prevention programs, care and advocacy programs do not work very well in conflict areas.

Children who are infected by HIV/AIDS have a double stigma; being former abductees as well as being HIV positive. This is a big challenge in this region. World Vision also noted that because of the double tragedy faced by People Living With AIDS (PLWA) and affected family members, psychosocial support needs to be emphasized.

A general appeal was made at the Forum, and specifically to the members of the Parliamentary Committee for HIV/AIDS, to support the work that is going on, and to lobby for additional resources and partners to enable the consolidation of the fight against HIV/AIDS in northern Uganda. There was also an appeal for enhancement of legislation to pursue the Penal Code Amendment Bill to properly address the anomalous definitions of "rape", "defilement" and

“indecent assault”. More comprehensive Legislation, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS was also noted to be lacking. For northern Uganda, collaboration with the Law and Order Sector is crucial for the success of HIV/AIDS responses. This helps in deterring people who take advantage of conflict situations to commit crimes that exposes their victims to HIV/AIDS infection.

CONCLUSION

The Forum demonstrated the importance the Government attaches to the development of northern Uganda in general, and to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in that region in particular.

“Today is your day. Parliament is represented here and we want to form an alliance.” (Hon. Capt. David Matovu, Member of the HIV/AIDS Committee).

A lot still needs to be done in the region. The unstable conditions brought about by the civil war, especially in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira, have made conventional approaches that have worked well in other districts less effective in the region. New intervention and approaches have to be devised.

The services and care need to spread well beyond the urban and peri-urban areas. Most of services are concentrated in certain areas but are dictated by considerations other than where the need is greatest.

In order for a more even spread of the services and care to be possible, reestablishment peace in the region is imperative. Steps must be taken to bring peace and a sense of security in the affected areas.

The demand for HIV/AIDS care and support has far exceeded previous projections and necessitates more human resources, medical equipment and logistical transport.

The Ministry of Health, members of the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS and all other stakeholders must prepare a workshop that will put in place a special policy for the Northern Region and come up with interventions and approaches that will address the unique situation in northern Uganda.

d) **Parliamentary Briefer**

LSA compiled information and data for printing and developing the *Parliamentary Briefer*. The *Briefer* is designed to give stakeholders an overview of the business of Parliament. The *Briefer* is distributed to 234 Organizations, institutions, programs and projects. There were three (3) *Briefers* printed and distributed during this quarter.

e) **Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services (MEMS)**

In response to requests from Monitoring and Evaluation Management Services (MEMS), LSA provided information and clarification (data) relative to (1) FY06 Target for Indicator: “Number of bills substantially reviewed by Parliamentary Committees” and (2) “Number of people you plan to train in FY2006 in the following areas”:

- “Strengthening the legislative function/legal framework”

- “Anti-Corruption”

f) Attended and participated in USAID's Partners Meeting (RE: Democracy, Governance and Conflict Expanded Team and Partners Meeting)

LSA attended USAID’s Implementing Partners (Re: Democracy, Governance and Conflict Team, S09) which was held on December 13, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was threefold: 1) USAID’s presentation concerning its S09 Assessment, 2) S09 Implementing Partners Presentations, 3) Discussions/dialogue. USAID’s Assessment Team presented its “Democracy and Governance Assessment for Uganda September 2005”

- major assessment objectives
- key findings: consensus
- key findings: inclusion
- key findings: competition
- key findings: governance
- key findings: rule of law
- key findings: fragility
- window of vulnerability: elections

Conclusions

- anti-corruption
- political processes
- fragility/conflict

LSA’s presentation consisted of *comments, highlights, achievements, and challenges* during FY05. A fruitful and productive discussion took place among S09 implementing partners, related issues, events, and activities.

After the meeting, LSA, along with Strengthening Decentralization II, were invited and requested by the USAID Deputy Mission Director to discuss a USAID issue (i.e. Millennium Challenge Corporation/Millennium Development Goals). Later, LSA submitted a Concept Paper to the Deputy Mission Director. “A Pro-active, Aggressive, and Measurable Anti-corruption Programme”. As of the writing of this report, there is no reply from USAID.

g) Submitted Concept Paper to USAID (Re: Anti-Corruption)

A Concept Paper was submitted to USAID, “A Pro-Active, Aggressive and Measurable Anti-Corruption Programme”.

As a follow-up to the discussion with USAID’s Deputy Mission Director, A Concept Paper was submitted to USAID (Re: “A Pro-Active, Aggressive, and Measurable Anti – Corruption Programme”). The Concept Paper focus on one of the Millennium Development Goals’ targets, i.e. corruption. The paper explores corruption in general and more specifically corruption in Uganda.

Direct references of anti-corruption actions and measures are made concerning organizations, commissions, and executive leadership in *Kenya* (Anti-Corruption Commission) and *Malawi* (Anti-Corruption Bureau of Malawi and the Director of Public Prosecution). Presidential leadership and actions are cited in *South Africa*, *Zambia*, and *Nigeria*. Corruption in Uganda is highlighted: A Report of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee for year Ended June 30, 2000, Procurement, and stories in the print media. An analysis is presented. Finally, Recommendations and Way Forward – A Prescription, is provided for consideration and actions.

STRENGTHS

- Liaising and networking with Parliaments' Planning, Development and Coordination Office, DA, and USAID.
- Continuing to build on good working relationships with the Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO) of Parliament, Members of Parliament and staff, CSOs, other USAID implementing partners [S07, S08, and S09] and vendors.
- Having a clearly defined guide, "*Program, Policies and Procedures for Conducting Capacity Building Activities*" (Revised December 2005).
- Holding regular staff meetings and having each staff member actively engaged, share experiences – positive and negative - and providing input.
- Holding regular meetings (average weekly) with USAID.
- Holding/scheduling regular meetings (as many as needed) with Parliament's Planning, Development and Coordination Office [PDCO].

WEAKNESSES (Internal)

- Not recognizing and consistently following LSA's guide "*Program, Policies and Procedures for Conducting Capacity Building Activities*". (Revised December 2005).

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Sponsor comprehensive training for parliamentary staff (168 staff members)
- Courses/Subjects: Modern Office Management, Customer Care in a Multi-party Political System, and Records Management
- Sponsor one week out-of-country Study Tour for the Department of Clerks - Parliament
- Publish *Citizens Guide to Parliament* (RE: Know Your Parliament)
- Working in collaboration with the Office of the Clerk to Parliament
- Sponsor Capacity Building and Advocacy Activity in collaboration with civil society
- Collaborate with USAID Implementing Partner, Strengthening Competitiveness of

Private Enterprise [SCOPE], towards a capacity building/advocacy activity with the private sector

- Sponsor two (2) parliamentary interns/research assistants. They will be assigned to the Parliamentary Budget Office and will have clearly defined duties and responsibilities.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL ACTION

Problem: Lack of sufficient basic and advanced computer skills, especially techniques, by LSA staff

Remedial Provide 'in-office specialized technical training' - for LSA office staff.

Action There is a very good possibility that the first training session will take

Taken: place in January 2006. Each training session will be for a period of one hour.

Problem: Lack of in house editing and 'type/proofing skills'

Remedial A combined remedy/approach has been put in place.

Action 1) The Chief of Party is primarily responsible for editing and

Taken: proofing all LSA documents/reports for out of office distribution; and

- 2) Interns/Research Assistants and Consultants will be engaged for the purpose of:

- proofreading documents
- proof typing edited documents

UNRESOLVED ISSUES OR CONSTRAINTS ON THE PROJECT

There is need for more flexibility in the management of the LSA project by LSA. There are management 'best practices' which should be recognized, understood and observed. When it comes to ideas, there are many out there. As pointed out by Glenn Tinder decades ago, " Ideas cannot be deliberately produced like industrial products ... one places himself in a fundamentally wrong relationship with ideas if he conceives of himself as controlling their appearance (see *Political Thinking*). " Much more can be accomplished by understanding and utilizing this approach.

Table 1

**LSA PMP QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
OF OCTOBER 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005**

LSA PMP QUARTERLY REPORTING FORM							
	BASELINE FY 05	TARGET FY 05	ACTUAL Jan- March 05	ACTUAL April- June 05	ACTUAL July- Sept 05	ACTUAL OCT – DEC 05	ACTUAL Annual FY 05
SO -9 LEVEL							
1. Number of CSOs submitting written comments to parliamentary committee hearings	42	50	51	5	14	16	
2. Number of Parliamentary Committees responding to CSOs with briefings and dialogue	4	6	1	1	0	2	
3. Number of laws amended by Parliament	5	5	-	6	2	5	
4. Number of target CSOs having legislative agenda items reflected in Parliamentary Bills	13	18	11	11	10	16	
IR-9.1 LEVEL							
5. Number of bills substantively reviewed by Parliamentary Committees before Enactment	10	6	6	8	0	2	

Source: Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO), Parliament of Uganda

Table I: LSA PMP Quarterly Report for the Period Oct. 1, Dec. 31, 2005 (continue)

<i>LSA PMP QUARTERLY REPORTING FORM</i>							
	BASELINE FY 05	TARGET FY 05	ACTUAL Jan- March 05	ACTUAL April- June 05	ACTUAL July- Sept 05	ACTUAL OCT – DEC 05	ACTUAL Annual FY 05
IR-9.1 LEVEL							
6. Number of legislative bills introduced in the legislature that are substantive as percentage of total number of bills introduced	* 1%	-	-	1%	0	0	
7. Percentage of legislative bills drafted by the executive that are substantially amended by the legislature	* 5%	-	-	0.14%	0	0	
8. Number of Parliamentary Committee reports tabled at Parliament which generate responses from the Executive	* 10	-	-	6	0	0	

***The CSOs may not be the same in all quarters or years**

Source: Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO), Parliament of Uganda

Table I: LSA PMP Quarterly Report for the Period Oct. 1, Dec. 31, 2005 (continue)

LSA PMP QUARTERLY REPORTING FORM							
	BASELINE FY 05	TARGET FY 05	ACTUAL Jan- March 05	ACTUAL April- June 05	ACTUAL July- Sept 05	ACTUAL OCT – DEC 05	ACTUAL Annual FY 05
IR 9.1.2 LEVEL							
9. Number of target CSOs having a legislative agenda with Parliament	* 28	40	20	20	20	20	
10. Number of meetings legislators hold with CSOs	* 20	15	-	70	5	12	
11. Number of Parliamentary Committees holding public meetings at the local level	* 5	5	-	0	1	2	
1R 9.1.3 LEVEL							
12. Number of Parliamentary Committees that request technical information from PBO	11	13	11	11	11	11	
13. Number of Parliamentary Committees that request technical information from the Parliamentary Research Service	8	12	6	5	5	5	
14. Number of Bills on which budgetary impact analysis is drafted by PBO	9	11	4	2	7	4	

Source: Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO), Parliament of Uganda

TABLE 2
LSA PMP Quarterly Report For The Period
Of October 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

No.		ACTUAL
1	Number of Civil society Organizations submitting written comments to Parliamentary Committee hearing: 1) Inter political Parties Forum 2) DEMGROUP 3) Action Party 4) Uganda National Performing Artists 5) Conservative Party 6) National Freedom Party 7) Human Rights Network (HURINET) 8) Uganda Law Society 9) Forum for Promoting Democratic Constitutionalism 10) Uganda Local Authorities Association 11) Uganda Urban Authorities Association 12) Uganda Manufacturers Association 13) Uganda Journalists Association 14) Uganda Musicians Union 15) Uganda National cultural Centre 16) Uganda National Gospel Artists	16
2	Number of Parliamentary Committees responding to CSOs with briefings and dialogue 1) Finance, Planning and Economic Development 2) Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	2
3	Number of laws amended by Parliament. 1) Political Parties and Organizations Act 2005 2) The Police amendment Act 15 3) The Parliamentary elections Act 4) The Presidential amendment Act 5) The Local Government (amendment) (No. 2) Act 2005	5
4	Number of target CSOs having legislative agenda items reflected in Parliamentary Bills 1) Inter political Parties Forum 2) DEMGROUP 3) Action Party 4) Uganda National Performing Artists 5) Conservative Party 6) National Freedom Party 7) Human Rights Network (HURINET) 8) Uganda Law Society 9) Forum for Promoting Democratic Constitutionalism 10) Uganda Local Authorities Association 11) Uganda Urban Authorities Association 12) Uganda Manufacturers Association 13) Uganda Journalists Association 14) Uganda Musicians Union 15) Uganda National cultural Centre 16) Uganda National Gospel Artists	16
5.	Number of Bills substantively reviewed by Parliamentary Committee before enactment: 1) The Copyright and Neighboring rights Bill 2004 2) The Persons with Disabilities Bill 2005	2
6	Number of substantive legislative bills introduced in Parliament, as a percentage of the total number of bills introduced:	0
7	Percentage of legislative bills drafted by the executive that are substantially amended by the legislature	0
8	Number of parliamentary committee reports tabled at Parliament which generate responses from the Executive:	0

Source: Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO), Parliament of Uganda

TABLE 2 (contd.)

No.		ACTUAL
9	Number of target CSOs having a legislative agenda with Parliament: 1) Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) 2) Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) 3) Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) 4) Uganda Law Society 5) The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U) 6) Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) 7) Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (ISIS WICCE) 8) Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda (LAW-U) 9) Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) 10) Hope After Rape 11) Human Rights Network (HURINET) 12) Council for Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa (CEEWA) 13) MIFUMI 14) Action Aid International 15) Action for Development (ACFODE) 16) Akiika Embuga Women's Self Help Association 17) Akina Mama wa Africa 18) Associates for Change 19) Association of Women Medical Doctors (AUWMD) 20) Association of Women Judges	20
10	NUMBER OF MEETINGS LEGISLATORS HOLD WITH CSOS **1) Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs **2) Committee on Equal Opportunities	9 3
11	Number of Parliamentary Committees holding public meetings at the local level 1) Committee on HIV/AIDS 2) Equal Opportunities Committee	2
12	Number of Parliamentary Committees that request information from the Parliamentary Budget Office 1) Social Services Committee, 2) Public Service and Local Government Committee, 3) Trade, Tourism and Industry Committee, 4) Natural Resources Committee, 5) Defence and Internal Affairs Committee, 6) Finance, Planning and Economic Development Committee, 7) Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries committee, 8) Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, 9) Works, Housing and Communications Committee, 10) Presidential and Foreign affairs Committee, 11) Budget Committee	11
13	Number of Parliamentary Committees that request information from the Parliamentary Research Service: 1) Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs 2) Committee on Equal Opportunities 3) Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development 4) Committee on Local Government and Public Service 5) Committee on National Economy	5
14	Number of Bills for which budgetary impact analysis is drafted by Parliamentary Budget Office 1) The Police amendment Act 15 2) The Parliamentary elections Act 3) The Presidential amendment Act 4) The Local Government (amendment) (No. 2) Act 2005	4

NOTE:

** The Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs held nine (9) meetings with CSOs to discuss the electoral laws which included the Local Government (Amendment) Bill, the Political Parties Organizations Bill, the Parliamentary Elections Bill and the Presidential Elections Bill

** The Committee on Equal Opportunities met thrice (3) with CSOs to discuss the Persons With Disabilities Bill.

Source: Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO), Parliament of Uganda

TABLE 3
Uganda Legislative Support Activity – LSA
Persons With Disabilities Regional Consultative Workshops Distribution of Report *

No.	Description of Report	Quantity Produced	Date of Distribution	Beneficiaries	Quantity Received
1.	Reports on the Central Region Consultative Workshop on Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2005 Workshop held at Hotel Africana Kampala, Uganda Theme: “ Towards A Comprehensive Law on Disability ”	405 four hundred and five copies of reports	16 th Dec., 2006		
				Members of Parliament	304 reports
				Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO) of Parliament, Parliamentary Library, Parliamentary Research and Information Department, and Office of Legislative Counsel	2 reports to each office
				Civil Society Organizations (Particularly those organizations working with Persons With Disabilities)	11 reports
				Other key stakeholders	44 reports
				Total Reports Distributed	363 Reports
2.	Reports on the Western Region Consultative Workshop on Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2005 Workshop held at Lake Regency Hotel, Mbarara, Uganda Theme: “ Towards A Comprehensive Law on Disability ”	405 four hundred and five copies of reports	19 th Dec., 2005		
				Members of Parliament	304 reports
				Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO) of Parliament, Parliamentary Library, Parliamentary Research and Information Department, and Office of Legislative Counsel	2 reports to each office
				Civil Society Organizations (Particularly those organizations working with Persons With Disabilities)	11 reports
				Other key stakeholders	21 reports
				Total Reports Distributed	345 Reports
3.	Reports on the Eastern Region Consultative Workshop on Persons With Disabilities Bill, 2005 Workshop held Rock Classic Hotel Tororo, Uganda Theme: “ Towards A Comprehensive Law on Disability ”	405 four hundred and five copies of reports	21 st Dec., 2005	Members of Parliament	304 reports
				Planning and Development Coordination Office (PDCO) of Parliament, Parliamentary Library, Parliamentary Research and Information Department, and Office of Legislative Counsel	2 reports to each office
				Civil Society Organizations (Particularly those organizations working with Persons With Disabilities)	11 reports
				Other key stakeholders	11 reports
				Total Reports Distributed	334 Reports
				TOTAL REPORTS DISTRIBUTED	

*Initially, a report was distributed to members of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Services, the Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities and the Public Relations Office of Parliament

ARMENIA

A. PROGRESS THIS QUARTER

1. Introduction and Summary

The final three months of 2005 saw marked changes in ALSP II's leadership at a time when Armenia experienced a politically volatile constitutional referendum. ALSP's Chief of Party ("COP") resigned in October, 2005. During the month between her departure and the arrival of new COP Jill Pender, Deputy COP John Armstrong served as Acting COP. Dr. John H. (Jack) Sullivan from Development Associate's Washington Office also stepped in during the interim to maintain project continuity. At about the same time, Armenia experienced a heated political campaign related to the passage of the Constitutional Referendum that came to a near boiling point over the legitimacy of the voting process, overshadowing much of the routine work of the National Assembly. ALSP's uninterrupted continuation of its fourth quarter programming is a testament to the strength of its ongoing project goals and initiatives.

DA's Sullivan dedicated the change-over period to a review of critical mission projects, and drafted a range of analytical materials related to ALSP II initiatives. He examined a controversial proposed Law on Lobbying and developed guideposts for examining the legislation's contents. He also drafted background material for use during the Vanadzor Citizen Communication and Information Center ("CICC") Budget Briefing. Sullivan's work on these projects highlights three key components of ALSP II programming: (1) normalization of committee rules and procedures related to the analysis of proposed legislation; (2) the development of outreach centers to foster communications between the National Assembly and constituents; and (3) press relations within the context of the National Assembly. Also, ALSP, which participated in review of the proposed Constitutional Amendments for adherence to legislative strengthening objectives, continued to provide support on this subject during the pre-November 27, 2005 election period.

New COP Pender arrived on November 8, 2005 with the assignment to re-evaluate and redraft the ALSP II Workplan that her predecessor had submitted in September, as well as implement the core components of the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") signed on October 13, 2005 with Speaker Artur Baghdasaryan.² The original ALSP Workplan consisted of 65 pages of detailed programmatics. The revised workplan provides a streamlined focus on ongoing and planned activities, while taking into account rational planning deadlines and budgetary constraints. Since ALSP submitted the revised Workplan after the MOU, it takes into account the contents of that document and its potential impact on planned activities. Moreover, Armenia's proposed constitutional referendum passed on November 28, 2005. The workplan adjusts the goals and expectations of ALSP II to the new constitutional environment, with a particular focus on the relationship between the executive and legislative branches of government. The revised workplan also provides a two-fold analytical approach to implementation, essentially separating the core elements of the National Assembly into its business and political-policy components.

² ALSP has not received approval of the Workplan to date, but the National Assembly and USAID signed the MOU four weeks before Pender's arrival, on October 13, 2005.

Overall, the final two months of 2005 consisted of a whirlwind of activity at ALSP that cemented pre-existing relationships and created new opportunities for programming. Policy related activities centered on citizen outreach, analytical review of legislative proposals, and rules and procedure development. Simultaneously, ALSP continued its hardware/software projects to enhance the Information Technology programs at the National Assembly and create a viable atmosphere for the implementation of new procurement projects.

2. Significant Activities/Events

The new COP arrived just after the MOU signing ceremony, and immediately began the core implementation process. The MOU contained many of the elements of established ALSP projects, but it also deleted the National Assembly Chief of Staff Haik Kotanyan as the designated ALSP liaison and left unnamed the internal National Assembly contact or liaison for implementation of the ALSP II MOU and Workplan.³ Given this situation, the new COP immediately established ties with the Speaker's Office and met with his staff to discuss alternative contacts. After coordinating with USAID, ALSP II set a meeting date with the Speaker for December 14, 2005, and requested the designation of a new liaison. During that meeting, participants, including USAID discussed a variety of ongoing projects, including the success and planned expansion of the CICC's, analytical training projects, English classes for National Assembly staff, procurement options, and the implementation of the LSAG.

The arrival of a new COP also gave ALSP II the opportunity to renew ties with various Deputies of the National Assembly and staff as well as to discuss potential new programming initiatives. New COP Pender met with senior staff and members on a daily basis during the months of November and December, in addition to hosting an end of session open house that attracted almost 200 staff, Deputies, local NGOs and representatives from other international organizations. The new COP and ALSP staff met with Deputy Speaker Vahan Hovhannesian on November 11, 2005, and Deputy Speaker Tigran Torosyan on November 25, 2005. Meetings included contacts with female Deputies in order to discuss the concept of a women's caucus, including Social Committee Chairman Hranoush Hrant Hakobyan, Deputy Emma Aramayisi Khoudabashyan, Deputy Hripsime Avetisyan, and Deputy Heghini Bisharyan. Additional meetings included Committee Chairmen: Rafik Petrosyan (State and Legal Affairs), Gagik Minasyan (Financial-Credit, Budgetary and Economic Affairs, and Armen Rostomyan (Foreign Relations).

Although the new COP met with a large number of staff throughout the final two months of the quarter, longer meetings targeted staff that had worked with ALSP in the past. Staff meetings included: National Assembly Deputy Chief of Staff Hovhannes Zargaryan, National Assembly Head of Secretariat Tatul Soghomonyan, Head of Web Division Lusine Hovhannisyan, Head of Information Department Marusya Asatryan, Head of Information Department Arusiak Khachatryan, Librarian Fatma Khachatryan, Head of Research Services Stepan Ohanjanyan, Head of Social Department Sedrakyan, Head of Public Relations Department Anahit Adamyan, Public Relations Department Deputy Gohar Poghosyan, Head of Local Self Government Issues Department Hovik Ohanyan, and Head of Legal and Economic Analysis Department Ashot Khachatryan. Pender and ALSP's Public Policy Specialist, Edward Safaryan also went on a field trip to a potential CICC site in Ijevan with Ohanyan from the Regional Planning and Policy

³ Pender met with Kotanyan within two days of her arrival, at which time he noted that he was powerless to implement ALSP II, because while he was the designated liaison in the ALSP I MOU, his name was deleted from the ALSP II MOU.

Analysis Division, the first time that a National Assembly staffer accompanied ALSP staff on a CICC site trip.

The designation of a new COP provided ALSP with additional opportunities to meet and forge cooperative relationships with other USAID contractors. ALSP began the process of gathering representatives of local governance programs to facilitate meetings with National Assembly staff related to the CICC and scheduled a roundtable discussion to coordinate cooperation. ALSP staff initiated these meetings with Eurasia Foundation on December 8, 2005, and followed up with RTI representatives on December 16, 2005 and ICHD's Tevan Poghosyan on December 16, 2005. ALSP also began a cooperative arrangement with the Eurasia Foundation on a Corruption Program to be held at the National Assembly during the First Quarter of 2006. The new COP initiated a "hot topic" review for ALSP II staff, to recognize topics of national significance that could be examined by the National Assembly Staff during roundtable discussions or internal policy summits that would also include other USAID program participation.

► **Cross-Cutting Tasks**

The MOU called for the immediate implementation of the Legislative Strengthening Advisory Group ("LSAG"). Essentially, the LSAG would examine the ongoing modernization process and set rational administrative policy goals. When the new COP and senior staff met with the Speaker during the Fourth Quarter, however, it became clear that the Speaker and his staff lacked a clear understanding of the LSAG concept. Accordingly, ALSP's staff adjusted the goal of the LSAG concept to meet the current needs of the National Assembly. The Speaker appointed a committee of three high-ranking staffers within the National Assembly to serve as a liaison board for ALSP, with the understanding that legislative modernization proposals would be discussed with this group in routine meetings with ALSP. The Speaker's liaison designees are: (1) Hovhanes Zargaryan, Deputy Chief of Staff, (2) Samvel Farmanyan, Adviser to the Speaker, and (3) Varduhi Khachatryan - Head of the Human Resource Department. The liaison group anticipates further discussions as to broadening the scope of the organization to ultimately contain additional core elements of the LSAG. This organization has become the genesis of a defacto LSAG, and the ultimate form of a LSAG will be dictated by the new rules of procedure required by the recently passed Constitutional Amendments.

Under the new COP, ALSP began a top-to-bottom review of its procurement programs to determine the availability of funds for critically needed projects. Although ALSP's feasibility studies rejected ideas such as a National Assembly Printing Plant and web-casting, the program will continue to provide material assessments and procure related hardware/software. ALSP translated the web-casting study into Armenian during the final quarter and provided the information to the National Assembly. During the last quarter of 2005, ALSP determined that the National Assembly should receive the following critical items: (1) a replacement "Risograph" machine or a reasonably similar equipment; (2) a collator (ALSP carried out source-origin research on the proposed component and a waiver will be requested before purchasing in the first quarter of 2006); (3) additional memory for its computer website; and (4) at least one new server.

ALSP also instituted strict accountability standards for the receipt of this equipment, including (1) the institutionalization of an annual IT inventory; and (2) placement of at least three interns within the National Assembly IT division to provide necessary equipment upkeep. Although the

internships were still being discussed during the final quarter, it was anticipated that the National Assembly would accept the placement of students in that division as part of a pilot program. ALSP's goal is to foster a standardized environment for the upkeep of the equipment, demonstrate the need for specifically delineated equipment, and encourage the inclusion of such equipment in the National Assembly's budget for succeeding calendar years.

Task 1: Facilitate and institutionalize the involvement of Armenia's legislative community to advocate, lobby and advise the National Assembly on policy and legislative issues

Computer Resources for Better Communication with the Legislative Community

Website

The National Assembly's website remains among the best and most visited government sites throughout the region. The number of internet hits for the parliament.am website during the last quarter of 2005 reached 68,508 on an average per month. The National Assembly's IT division's strategic plan (prepared with ALSP II assistance) had set the calendar year 2005 target for hits at 57,000, and a calendar year 2006 goal of 65,000 hits per month. November saw the highest level of hits, perhaps because of interest in the constitutional referendum: 72,460.

In November, 2005, ALSP obtained permission from USAID-Armenia to extend the employment of contractor Mihran Grigoryan to continue debugging the National Assembly web system, as well as assist with expansion plans for other web pages. Grigoryan continued to train the National Assembly's Web Division staff so that they can develop self-sufficient competency skills. He also continued to work with the National Assembly's Information Technology Division on issues related to server improvement issues. With Grigoryan's targeted assistance, the National Assembly enlarged the intranet to include new materials and links on the pages for the Information Department, Legal and Economic Analysis Department and the Social Department. An Archive service hired by the National Assembly indexed 7,000 pages of new material for the intranet site. Grigoryan upgraded the search system on both the website and intranet site.

Internal IT Resources

Much of the work related to computer resources is interconnected to previous quarters and part of ongoing initiatives. For instance, ALSP's past work with the National Assembly Citizen Letters Division ("CLD") concerning its use of the Public Inquiry Tracking System ("PITS") created the opportunity for ALSP's database consultant, Tigran Zargaryan to redesign the PITS database. He continued through the final quarter of 2005 to provide long-term post-implementation assistance to debug the system.

The June, 2005, CLD report of citizen participation from an analysis of database input and responses continues to yield benefits in allowing the National Assembly to analyze public concerns. The report process continues on a quarterly basis to better inform the NA and its leadership of input on legislative issues. For instance, the Secretariat was able to report that in the fourth quarter, the National Assembly received 3,249 citizen letters that were tracked through PITS. The ultimate ALSP goal is to institutionalize the PITS database throughout the National Assembly's office and committee structure. During the final quarter of 2005, the Social and

Health Committee also adopted PITS. Mr. Zargaryan continued his work with the systems. Follow-on activity will include the installation of PITS in all Standing Committees and Speakers' offices, along with routine staff training, and the creation of a PITS user group within the National Assembly to facilitate the exchange of information between in-house users.

The development of ties between the legislative community and the National Assembly, and the institutionalization of this process during committee hearings is closely linked to the second ALSP task related to the improvement of internal committee processes and procedures. Activities in this regard are detailed below.

Task 2: Improve the functioning of key committees and departments of the National Assembly by having them work closer with the legislative community in jointly analyzing, researching, commenting on and drafting legislation

Committee Work and Evaluation

During this quarter ALSP's Hovhannesian continued her practice of attending scheduled meetings of both the Social and Education Committees. Her ongoing mission in this regard includes:

1. Evaluate current practises and identify "targets of opportunity within the National Assembly for increased transparency, improved representation and more effective legislative oversight"
2. Advise committee experts and Deputy Members of advanced methodology for more effective committee work
3. Evaluate agenda items alongside staff and advise on opportunities for draft law insert publications and public hearings
4. Provide personal professional expertise to assist the committee staff in draft analyses of proposed legislation.

Hovhannesian has drafted a manual for committee hearing use that was under construction during the fourth quarter. ALSP also continued working with the NA Foreign Relations Committee on issuing a committee report on the March Public Hearings on Karabagh.

As discussed at Activity 4, passage of the Constitutional Referendum required a renewed analysis of the National Assembly's Rules of Procedures. Although this activity is both an overarching activity and cross-cutting in nature, it is discussed *infra* at Activity 4 because most of ALSP's work in this area during the fourth quarter related to executive-legislative relationships, as defined in the proposed draft law on the Rules of Procedure.

Law on Lobbying

The proposed "Law on Lobbying" drafted by the UNDP offered an unprecedented opportunity to exercise the processes that ALSP II had initiated with regard to normalizing hearing processes and procedures and facilitating relationships between outside experts and committee staff. Fast-tracked passage of the Law on Lobbying appeared to be an antidote to corruption, but it was drafted in such a way as to raise issues about freedom of speech and NGO participation in the legislative process.

ALSP's staff, including State Institutions Specialist Lilit Hakobyan and Jack Sullivan, developed a report on the proposed law and distributed it to a working group of local and international experts studying the issue. The Working Group included ALSP's comments in the official summary of comments, and ALSP's staff continued to participate in working group activities until the internal National Assembly hearing process.

ALSP's staff, led by Communication and Information Specialist Anna Hovhanessyan, facilitated meetings between National Assembly staff of the Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs and USAID's Counterpart project and assisted in the hearing process. The Committee conducted an orderly hearing on the Law on Lobbying and provided a viable forum for presenting alternative views on the subject matter. As a result of the hearing, the committee determined that the legislative record lacked sufficiency and tabled the measure until the following year. This decision represents a milestone in committee hearing process and procedure: the recognition that the hearing itself is instrumental to the transparency of the process related to the adoption of laws. Just as important as the passage of the law itself is the determination by the National Assembly that fairness dictates that outside working groups that draw up laws do not satisfy the representational interest – the National Assembly must build its own, independent record that includes national perspectives before considering legislation.

ALSP also followed up with staff after the Law on Lobbying hearing to foster an exchange of information related to hearing successes and problems. Two days after the hearing, ALSP sponsored a roundtable discussion in its offices at the National Assembly for four staff members. The discussion centered upon basic hearing techniques, such as testimony preparation, NGO preparation, and presentations. The main discussion centered on the time that each witness should be allowed to testify in order to allow for equal participation by all witnesses. Although the hearing was a success, the executive branch monopolized testimony time, and in doing so, prevented the other witnesses from being exposed to press coverage. ALSP will work with the committee staff, especially during the constitutional referendum implementation phase, to limit executive testimony during hearings.

Providing Free Help and Training Potential Employees

The National Assembly currently manages a limited student internship program to provide students from a range of faculties and universities with the opportunity to learn more about legislative branch operations. The program is approximately six weeks in duration and involves a basic introduction to the work of the National Assembly. The students do not produce specific work products during their internships. Also, the staff of the National Assembly must allot time from their busy schedules to supervise the interns. This program is more in the nature of an out-of-school study program than a traditional internship. As such, it fails to provide in-depth work experience to the participants or any discernable benefits to the National Assembly.

In June 2005, ALSP consulted with the National Assembly in an effort to implement a competitive student internship program based on the successful model of the ten-year-old Ukrainian *Verkhovna Rada* internships. ALSP continues to work with the Human Resources Management Department to develop criteria for a competitive recruitment and selection process. ALSP's consultations on this issue show fundamental concerns at the National Assembly related to supervision of the long-term internships, work-space allocations for participants and housing for non-Yerevan interns. ALSP staff met with various officials of the National Assembly several

times during the final months of the fourth quarter to initiate the program, and took definitive steps in securing approval.

ALSP recognizes the importance of outstanding issues, and will continue to work with the National Assembly staff to resolve these matters. In the meantime, ALSP intends to work with the Speaker's designees to initiate a pilot program of three to five interns to alleviate staffing shortages in the IT division*. This pilot intern program will target assistance in areas related to ALSP procurement programs and ensure proper maintenance of equipment. During the fourth quarter, ALSP had secured tentative approval from the National Assembly staff to institute the IT intern pilot program.

The implementation of an expanded pilot program that includes interns with non-technical backgrounds is slated to occur during the course of the next workplan. The goal of that program will be to introduce students to the work of the National Assembly while increasing their awareness of civic responsibilities, assist the National Assembly in handling workload issues, and create an outside workforce within the legislative community at large that has an insider's awareness of the mechanisms of the National Assembly. The ALSP team will cooperate with other USAID implementing partners, including ABA-CEELI's legal education program to ensure that various private and public law schools are aware of this opportunity.

Task 3: Improve the ability of select units and individuals within the National Assembly to be more transparent, representative and responsive to citizen priorities, interests and concerns

Citizen Information and Communication Centers (CICC)

The National Assembly has expressed an unprecedented interest in ALSP's ongoing, and constantly improving, CICC program. This program is administered internally within ALSP by Deputy COP Armstrong and Public Policy Specialist Safaryan. Constituency outreach is two-way street and the populace often must learn the skills associated with grassroots organization and individual contacts. In CICC's, volunteers assist members of the public in proper letter format and complaint direction. These volunteers also assist individuals that incorrectly target the National Assembly for contact, when their complaints are better directed to local officials. In this way, ALSP assists in the proper direction of the constituent contact and eliminates non-germane complaints at the National Assembly level.

Most importantly, however, the CICC's provide the first level of contact and response for citizens seeking to interact with the National Assembly. They open the doors of the National Assembly to constituents that might be too remote to have direct contact with their legislative system. The CICC's are an initial step to improving constituent contact – their sustainability after ALSP is important and the concept of direct contact between Deputies and their constituencies is still in need of improvement. ALSP continued to insist that CICC's be volunteer directed and operated, because other local informational centers previously funded by international donor groups have failed as soon as funding ended.

* See, "E. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS" section, at page 40.

ALSP continued work with five established CICC's to develop their action plans for the next six months, as well as on providing a report on recent activities to share with other centers and the National Assembly. This shared information will allow CICC's and interested National Assembly staff to analyze lessons learned as well as to promote cross-regional cooperation and the development of common strategies for all CICC's.

In addition, existing CICC's are assisting in distributing the questionnaire on NGOs' attitude towards the National Assembly prepared by ALSP. The forms filled out by local NGOs are submitted to CICC's and later forwarded to ALSP. ALSP will prepare a report on results of the survey for 2005 in the beginning of the next quarter.

ALSP has established two new CICC's in Gyumri. These centers are hosted by Shirak Regional Branch of A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Center and Gyumri Public Library. In cooperation with the NA Regional Policy Analysis Department, ALSP has identified a number of new potential CICC sites (Armavir, Gavar, Yeghegnadzor, Ijevan, Ashtarak, Sevan, Etchmiadzin) and visited a few of those (Ijevan, Gavar) within the period of October – December of 2005. At least three new CICC's will be operational within the next two months. Site visits during this quarter included staff from the National Assembly for the first time.

Strategic Planning: Efficiency and Transparent Use of National Assembly Resources

In October, ALSP's international management specialist Donna Usher conducted one-day training for department heads on strategic planning methodologies. Assisting in this process were ALSP Acting Chief of Party Armstrong and Communications and Information Systems Specialist Hovhanessyan. ALSP used Human Resources Staff to train other participants during the sessions as well, in order to promote sustainability of the strategic planning process.

Usher also conducted individual consultations with all department heads after the group training to determine the level of comprehension and readiness to draft 2006 annual plans. As a follow-up to this program, Hovhannesyan worked throughout the rest of the quarter with the Human Resources Department to develop additional National Assembly Staff Policy/Procedures /Training programs based on the Usher model.

Constituency Outreach: Up Close and Personal

In early November, ALSP II joined with staff and Deputies of the National Assembly to organize "Parliament Building Action II" in the Masis region of Armenia. Three factions (Republican, Rule of Law and Justice) actively participated. The program involved new house construction and included the assistance of Deputy COP Armstrong as well as staffer Hovhanessyan.

Task 4: Develop the National Assembly's ability to improve oversight of the executive branch through existing mechanisms and, to the extent possible, through assisting in the creation of new mechanisms via constitutional and legislative amendments.

Constitutional Amendments Activities

Armenia's Constitutional Referendum vote would have had an impact on ALSP II activities

regardless of its direction. If it failed, then Armenia would have had to go through the process of drafting and legislative passage again. If the measure passed, it contained several provisions that would have a profound effect on the National Assembly's internal operations. Since ALSP I and II had actively participated in the initial drafting process related to National Assembly activities, the outcome would determine whether ALSP would continue on that path or turn toward constitutional implementation.

This question was resolved with the November 27, 2005 election, but not before a particularly dramatic voting season. Constitutional Opposition forces had condemned the process leading to the proposed constitutional amendments and advocated a boycott of the election. Without the Opposition's participation, the Constitutional Referendum seemed destined to fail, because passage depended upon a two-thirds plurality. This situation led to questions of legitimacy of the voting process when the Referendum passed on November 27, 2005.

Although questions continue concerning the legitimacy of the election, ALSP stepped in immediately after the vote to begin an analysis of the impact of the referendum on the legislative process and offer assistance to the National Assembly's working group on process and procedure. At the end of the Fourth Quarter, ALSP was involved in preparing materials related to legislative processes and procedure, especially the interpellation process. The interpellation process is a key ingredient of legislative oversight of ministry affairs in international parliamentary practice. The proper application of this concept will institutionalize legislative oversight activities.

The Budget Oversight Process

ALSP has continued its work in developing the National Assembly's oversight prerogatives and skills in reviewing, analyzing and debating the annual budget. During the fourth quarter, ALSP responded to the National Assembly's Office of the Secretariat to duplicate and provide copies of the 2006 Draft Budget Law to Deputies, staff, and accredited journalists for review. ALSP performed this task during the quarter but cautioned that funding for budget production should be built into the National Assembly's processes and their internal budget should fund this cost in the future.

ALSP's most important contribution to this process, however, involved the work of local budget analyst Samvel Markosyan. ALSP's staff worked with Markosyan to provide direct assistance to National Assembly Deputies and staff during the run-up to consideration of the next calendar year's budget. Markosyan worked with ALSP's Hovhannesian to review budget sections and analyze funding for programming. The Standing Committee on Education and the Standing Committee on Social Affairs received extensive assistance and benefited from Markosyan's analytical expertise. In contrast to recent years where there were few suggested amendments (119), National Assembly factions and Deputy groups presented 387 suggested changes to the Government prior to consideration, with 31 being accepted. The total number of changes accepted in 2005 numbered only three.

During this time period, National Assembly Human Resource Department staffer Erik Minasyan joined with ALSP's consultant Markosyan, and the "Assistance to MTEF Project" of DFID to organize a workshop entitled "Programme Budgeting in Armenia." This program assisted

National Assembly committee and department staff in the analysis of the state budget of different sectors. Seventeen staffers received training.

As a follow-up to the training and budget process, Markosyan drafted a document entitled: “Guidelines for the Analysis of the 2007 State Budget Package.” New COP Pender and Hovhanessyan met with Budget Chairman Gagik Minasyan at the end of the fourth quarter and later provided him with the document. During that meeting, Pender also secured Minasyan’s agreement to cooperate in a staff-to-staff budget program scheduled for the second or third quarter of 2006, whereby staff from the United States Congress will travel to Armenia for a series of consultancies and workshops with local staff designed to improve analytical skills and oversight capabilities.

Also, ALSP distributed the package of Budget 2006 analyzing tools and materials to 131 Deputies, Department Heads and the Control Chamber. The package included a) “Guidelines for the Analysis of the 2006 State Budget Package” and b) “Programme Budgeting in Armenia”. ALSP prepared the package of excel sheet documents and uploaded the package on the National Assembly’s Intranet page). All National Assembly staff and deputies can access the material at the intranet page of Fiscal and Monetary Policy Analysis Department.

3. *Summary of this Quarter’s Milestones and Outputs*

Cross-Cutting Tasks

1. Memorandum of Understanding signed on October 11, 2005.
2. Implementation initiated under new COP after November 8, 2005.
3. Resolution of liaison issues for ALSP MOU implementation December 16, 2005
4. Formation of ALSP-National Assembly Modernization Working Group as first step toward LSAG implementation, December 18, 2005

Task 1: Facilitate and institutionalize the involvement of Armenia’s legislative community to advocate, lobby and advise the National Assembly on policy and legislative issues

1. Website hits at 68,508 per month
2. Website improvements and expansion
3. Additional computer training for staff
4. PITS expansion to new committees

Task 2: Improve the functioning of key committees and departments of the National Assembly by having them work closer with the legislative community in jointly analyzing, researching, commenting on and drafting legislation

1. Law on Lobbying hearing work leads to unprecedented cooperation between National Assembly and local NGOs and the recognition of the importance of establishing an internal legislative record
2. Continuation of liaison with committees to provide routine assistance to staff
3. Target of Opportunity program within ALSP to identify current events of national concern for Committee or staff briefings

4. Secured oral commitment from Speaker to initiate intern program

Task 3: Improve the ability of select units and individuals within the National Assembly to be more transparent, representative and responsive to citizen priorities, interests and concerns

1. Two new CICC's
2. Express recognition by Speaker of importance of program and request to visit a site to create greater awareness of program's significance
3. Strategic Planning
4. Strategic Planning Workshop provides Department heads with tools for implementation of better management practices

Task 4: Develop the National Assembly's ability to improve oversight of the executive branch through existing mechanisms and, to the extent possible, through assisting in the creation of new mechanisms via constitutional and legislative amendments

1. Worked with Legal Department to resolve issues related to Interpellations and initiated project report
2. Stepped in to provide copies of draft budget for National Assembly Review
3. Budget consultancy led to more than double the National Assembly-based Amendments to Government Budget
4. Began review of Ombudsman Constitutional Provision

4. *Results This Quarter*

A specific reportable results framework with measurements reflecting significant progress made during the course of the three years of the ALSP (2004-2007) and results attained due to the combined efforts of the ALSP team and the work of the National Assembly has been submitted to USAID for approval in its Performance Management Plan (PMP). Data for this reporting framework is primarily collected annually. The table of these measurable results is presented here with the data which has been collected to date.

ALSP II MEASURABLE RESULTS REPORTING FRAMEWORK

SO 2.1 IMPROVED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE
IR 2 Targeted Governance Institutions Strengthened

RESULTS Indicator	Measurement	Baseline 2004	Target 2005	ACTUAL 2005
<i>1. Rating of legislative authority – basic tenets of legislative authority, responsiveness, and accountability in normative acts and guidelines</i>	NDI Legislative Assessment Tool	As Per Appendix 1	As Per Appendix 1	New Constitution passed Nov. 27, 2005 See next chart for review
<i>2. Ratings of Citizen Access</i>	USAID administered Scorecard (35 Points Total)	14.4 pts. or 41.14%	20 pts. or 57.14%	(for Fall 2004 Session) 12.37 pts. or 35.34% (For Spring 2005 Session) 12 points or 34%)
<i>3. Ratings on Legislative Process</i>	Scorecard (55 Points Total)	28.5 pts.	35 pts.	(for Fall 2004 Session) 28.81 pts. or 52% (For Spring 2005 Session) 29.7 points or 54%)
<i>4. Number of Public Meetings Conducted at the National Assembly According to Established Criteria</i>	Number of Hearings	1	12	Assessment ongoing
<i>5a. Percentage of Deputies who consider that the National Assembly has adequate oversight authority and information to conduct oversight.</i>	Deputy Survey	52% (Authority)	70.0%	Assessment ongoing
		40% (Information)	50.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>5b. Percentage of NA Staff Aware of the Oversight Role of Parliament</i>	Staff Survey	62.0%	78.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>6a. Percentage of Deputies who believe that the public has a good understanding of the role of the National Assembly</i>	Deputy Survey	20.0%	35.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>6b. Percentage of Deputies who indicate they use the media to inform constituents</i>	Deputy Survey	19.0%	50.0%	Assessment ongoing

ALSP II MEASURABLE RESULTS REPORTING FRAMEWORK

SO 2.1 IMPROVED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE
IR 2 Targeted Governance Institutions Strengthened

RESULTS Indicator	Measurement	Baseline 2004	Target 2005	ACTUAL 2005
<i>6c. Percentage of NA Staff Aware of the Representative Role of Parliament.</i>	Staff Survey	25.0%	35.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>7a. Percentage of activist NGOs aware of the oversight role of parliament</i>	Measured in annual polling (Last Used: ALSP Report on Analysis of NGO Questionnaires - Jan. 2005, Question 2)	24.0%	29.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>7b. Percentage of activist NGOs aware of the representative of parliament</i>	Measured in annual polling (Last Used: ALSP Report on Analysis of NGO Questionnaires - Jan. 2005, Question 2)	11.0%	16.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>7c. Percentage of activist NGOs satisfied with the information they receive from parliament</i>	Measured in annual polling (Last Used: ALSP Report on Analysis of NGO Questionnaires - Jan. 2005, Question 8)	18%	25.0%	Assessment ongoing
<i>8a. Percentage of the general population indicating an awareness and understanding of the representative role of the National Assembly</i>	Survey (Annual LGP Household)	26.4% (2003)	35%	58% (March 2005)
<i>8b. Percentage of the general population indicating an awareness and understanding of the oversight role of the National Assembly</i>	Survey (Annual LGP Household)	7.8% (2003)	12%	16% (March 2005)
<i>9a. Use of the NA Website Legislation page</i>	Website Statistical Report	Apr-04 40,322 Hits per month	50,000/month	Nov-05 63,618 Hits per month
<i>9b. Use of the NA Website Draft Legislation Page</i>	Website Statistical Report	Apr-04 16,629 Hits per month	20,000/month	Nov-05 20,035 Hits per month
<i>9c. Use of the NA Website Committee Information Page</i>	Website Statistical Report	Apr-04 3,933 Hits	5,000/month	Nov-05 3713 Hits

SEPTEMBER 2005 UPDATE

APPENDIX 1. Selections/adaptations from National Democratic Institute's "Outline for a Baseline Assessment of the Legislature"

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
1	DOES THE LEGISLATURE VOTE TO APPOINT/APPROVE/CONFIRM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET? DOES IT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DISMISS OR CENSURE (REPRIMAND) CABINET MEMBERS AND/OR THE ENTIRE CABINET?	No, it does not appoint individual members of the cabinet. According to Article 85 (par. 3) of the Constitution of RA the President approves the cabinet proposed by the Prime Minister. Yes, according to Article 84 of the Constitution by the simple majority of all Deputies can express the vote of no confidence to the Government.	NO CHANGE	The Constitution will require the parliament's active involvement in the process of appointing the Prime Minister either by initial nomination of the PM candidate or shifting that authority to the Parliament when President's nominee is not approved by the Parliament.	The Constitution requires the parliament's active involvement in the process of appointing the Prime Minister either by initial nomination of the PM candidate or shifting that authority to the Parliament when President's nominee is not approved by the Parliament.		Parliament will have participated in the review of ministerial positions and the approval of the Prime Minister.
2	DOES THE CONSTITUTION GIVE THE LEGISLATURE THE AUTHORITY TO CONVENE ITS SESSIONS OR IS THIS A POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH?	Yes, Article 69 of the Constitution: two regular sessions. According Article 70 only the President has the right to convene extraordinary sessions of the Parliament due to initiative of the at least of 1/3 of	NO CHANGE	Changes in the Constitution will allow a majority of deputies to convene extraordinary sessions of parliament without presidential consent	The Constitution allows a majority of deputies to convene extraordinary sessions of parliament without presidential consent		

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
		Deputies or due to government initiative.					
4	UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES, IF ANY, CAN THE PRESIDENT OR PRIME MINISTER DISSOLVE THE LEGISLATURE?	Constitution Article 55.3 the President can dissolve the NA after the consultations with the Prime Minister and the Chairman of the NA. However the President cannot dissolve the NA during last 6 months of his/her term.	NO CHANGE	The circumstances under which the president can dismiss the parliament will be specifically stated in the constitution	The circumstances under which the president can dismiss the parliament are specifically stated in the constitution		
5	CAN THE LEGISLATURE OVERRIDE A PRESIDENTIAL VETO? IF SO, BY WHAT PERCENTAGE VOTE?	Constitution Article 72 states that if the disagreements and proposals of the President in a returned law are not accepted by the NA, the NA overrides presidential veto by the total SIMPLE majority of all MPs.	NO CHANGE	The constitutional amendments will preserve the legislature's right to override a presidential veto	No: The constitution still does not allow for National Assembly to override a presidential veto – rather, there is a consultative process of returning legislation for reconsideration and passage – or a new proposal must be submitted.		

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
6	CAN THE LEGISLATURE AMEND OR PROPOSE NEW LEGISLATION INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT REVIEW?	NO. Constitution Article 75 requires that Government initiated bills be put to a vote only with changes acceptable to the authors. The legislative initiatives proposed by deputies which will have budgetary impact require the conclusion of the Government before consideration. In addition the bills considered "urgent" by the Government shall be discussed and put on vote within one month period.	NO CHANGE	The constitution will provide for mechanisms enabling the legislature to pass and amend legislation without executive interference.	No		
7	CAN THE LEGISLATURE DETERMINE ITS OWN INTERNAL BODIES?	No, the constitution determines specifically that the National Assembly will have six standing committees. The Rules of Procedure determine the	The Speaker of Parliament in 2003 introduced also the concept of "Speaker's Councils" which act as quasi committees	The constitution will cede authority to the National Assembly to determine the number of standing committees in parliament. Reference in the Constitution to the	PARTIALLY: The Constitution allows for the National Assembly to establish up to twelve standing committees according to the procedures set forth in the NA By-laws	The NA By-laws will outline the specific procedures for establishing standing and temporary committees	The NA By-laws will outline the specific procedures for establishing standing and temporary committees and other National Assembly bodies, including consideration of staffing and financial support of these bodies

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
		jurisdiction of the 6 committees, but since that is a law, that must be approved by the president's signature. The NA By-Laws allow for the establishment of ad hoc committees for one-year terms.	of parliament.	"Law" on the NA Rules of Procedure will be eliminated.	NO: NA By-laws still referred to as a Law (i.e., requiring president's signature for any changes)	and other National Assembly bodies, including consideration of staffing and financial support of these bodies	
8	ARE THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES ADEQUATELY STAFFED AND RESOURCED?	No, the committee staff is limited (by the By-Laws) to no more than 5 full-time staff in the committee (combined clerical and professional staff). Committees do not have their own budgets.	No Change		NA By-laws may be amended to allow periodic review of staffing needs of standing committees. Committee Staffing adjustments will be incorporated into the National Assembly's MTEF.	NA By-laws will be amended to allow periodic review of staffing needs of standing committees will be initiated. Committee Staffing adjustments will be incorporated into the National Assembly's MTEF.	2007 State Budget will include a detailed justification of the staffing needs of the National Assembly Standing Committees

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
9	WHAT IS THE LEGISLATURE'S ROLE IN THE BUDGET PROCESS? CAN IT AMEND THE EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET? REDUCE AND/OR INCREASE EXPENDITURES AND/OR TAXES?	Government presents the budget to the legislature. The legislature has the ultimate power to approve the budget. (Const. art. 76) (By Law Chapter 10).	MTEF introduced in 2003 allows a three-year perspective on the projected budgetary commitments for different sectors and the policies underlying those projected expenditures.		YES: The timeline for budget consideration allows the National Assembly 90 days for consideration and therefore for greater scrutiny by the National Assembly	The timeline for budget consideration will be adjusted (budget submitted by October 1) to allow for greater scrutiny by the National Assembly	
10	CAN THE PRESIDENT RULE BY DECREE (IF SO, UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES?)	Const. Art. 56, the President can rule by decree, but they shall not contradict the Constitution and the existing Laws	NO CHANGE	Specific circumstances under which the President can issue decrees will be specified in the Constitution	YES: Specific circumstances under which the President can issue decrees are specified in the Constitution		
11	WHO DETERMINES THE LEGISLATURE'S BUDGET?	The NA determines its budget, with the approval of the Ministry of finance, as the lead ministry for the government which is the "author" of the Draft Law on the State Budget for FY####.	NA participates in the 3-year MTEF projections of its budgetary needs, but annual budget still requires government approval.	NA Departments and Committees begin to plan their activities with the fiscal implications in mind.	Not Specified	NA Departments and committees develop their budgets and budget projections within the general NA budget	Individual budgets of committees and departments are incorporated into the NA's MTEF projections

	Question	Status as of July 2002	Status as of November 2004	Target for September 2005	ACTUAL for December 2005	Target for September 2006	Target for August 2007
13	Are verbatim records (transcripts) of the plenary sessions and committee meetings available to the media and/or officially published?	NO, only plenary session transcripts are in written form and in the NA Library and Archives; Committee transcripts are not kept	Plenary transcripts are on the NA Intranet Site; no committee transcripts are posted – records are maintained in the committees	Plenary transcripts are on the NA Intranet Site; committees will begin recording minutes of meetings	No Progress this period	Plenary Transcripts will be made available on the NA Website; Committee Meeting Minutes will be available on the intranet	Plenary Transcripts available on the NA Website; Committee Meeting Minutes available on the website

Definition of Measurement:

The NDI Legislative Assessment Tool is used in a number of countries to identify the system of governance and the relative strength of the legislative institution. The criteria chosen from this tool for monitoring the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia are those criteria which are most central to the legislative authority and relative independence of the institution.

Relevance of Indicator:

Without meeting these basic tenets of legislative authority and independence, the National Assembly will have much less influence in the process of creating and introducing policy changes and overseeing that these policies enacted into law are being appropriately implemented. As the constitutional reform in Armenia is ongoing, the

Data Collection Methods/Approximate Costs

ALSP Staff will be responsible for monitoring these benchmarks

Target Setting/Trend line Interpretation Issues

Benchmarks are based on analysis of assessments of the legislative authority of the National Assembly by ALSP legislative development specialists based on the practices of modern democratic legislatures. As constitutional reform is being introduced for consideration in 2005, many of the benchmarks of basic authority are targeted to be met in the first year of the program. However, practical application of that authority will be measured in subsequent years as to how that authority is exercised.

B. SUMMARY OF PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER

Cross-Cutting Tasks

- ▶ ALSP and the Speaker's liaison group will continue to meet to discuss modernization projects and general programming issues related to the National Assembly. The group will make recommendations as to the further implementation of an LSAG-style group.
- ▶ ALSP will make a secondary review of the procurement plan based on internal analysis of current budget and additional requests from the National Assembly for emergency purchases during the final quarter of 2005.
- ▶ PMP activities will include soliciting bids from local Social Science centers for processing the deputy and staff surveys to be conducted using the same instrument as in 2002 and 2003.
- ▶ NGO questionnaire should be sent out in the First quarter of 2006 with the assistance of CASP and AED to CSOs in the regions.
- ▶ ALSP will conduct Performance Management Plan – related activities, including working with the Human Resource Management Department to conduct a staff survey in the National Assembly and solicit bids to conduct a survey of elected deputies in the second quarter of 2006.
- ▶ ALSP will work with the committees and departments on issues related to constitutional implementation.

Task 1: Facilitate and institutionalize the involvement of Armenia's legislative community to advocate, lobby and advise the National Assembly on policy and legislative issues

- ▶ ALSP will undertake a top-to-bottom review of the National Assembly's Information Technology Department after securing permission from the Speaker's Liaison group to analyze all internal systems. ALSP will bring in specialists to analyze system use to support Internet and Intranet programs critical to outside communication through computer use. ALSP will report to the liaison group concerning the need for internal protocols to prevent misuse and protect the integrity of the system.
- ▶ ALSP will join with the Eurasia Foundation to sponsor a program within the National Assembly that provides insight into oversight of corruption issues.
- ▶ ALSP will continue to expand the PITS system to additional committee offices and departments.

Task 2: Improve the functioning of key committees and departments of the National Assembly by having them work closer with the legislative community in jointly analyzing, researching, commenting on and drafting legislation

- ▶ ALSP will sponsor a new staff orientation program with the cooperation of the Human Resources department and promote a program to ensure sustainability.
- ▶ ALSP will complete a manual on committee hearing processes and best practices for distribution and review.
- ▶ ALSP will ensure the initiation of the intern pilot program to begin in the IT Office.
- ▶ ALSP will continue to monitor current events to target issues of national concern for staff briefings or National Assembly-wide summit programs.

Task 3: Improve the ability of select units and individuals within the National Assembly to be more transparent, representative and responsive to citizen priorities, interests and concerns

- ▶ ALSP will continue to foster the CICC's and expand the program to include more facilities.
- ▶ ALSP will work with the Speaker's Office to schedule a tour of a CICC facility during a press event to promote greater awareness of CICC facilities.
- ▶ ALSP will sponsor an orientation program at the National Assembly for CICC participants to provide additional contacts and informational resources for CICC volunteers.
- ▶ ALSP will create a working group between local governance NGOs and donor groups and the National Assembly's Regional Planning and Policy Analysis Division to ensure greater cooperative efforts related to local issues. ALSP will sponsor a roundtable discussion related to these issues.

Task 4: Develop the National Assembly's ability to improve oversight of the executive branch through existing mechanisms and, to the extent possible, through assisting in the creation of new mechanisms via constitutional and legislative amendments.

- ▶ ALSP will complete and distribute an Interpellation White Paper containing an analysis of this process prior to the National Assembly's consideration of implementing legislation related to the Constitutional Referendum.
- ▶ ALSP will analyze proposed Rules of Procedure scheduled to be considered as part of the Constitutional Referendum implementation process.
- ▶ ALSP will follow-up with the Budget Chairman to review and analyze oversight activities and schedule study tours related to this issue area. ALSP also will work with expert staff to review plans for a staff-to-staff program for the second or third quarter that will bring in staff from the United States Congress to meet with National Assembly staff on issues related to budget and appropriations.

- ▶ ALSP will assist in the development of procedures related to the Ombudsman Article of the Constitution.

C. COOPERATION WITH OTHER DONORS

Other Donor Activity with the National Assembly

ALSP continued its cooperation with both USAID implementing partners and donors and partners from other donor organizations. ALSP initiated two specific programs during the last quarter designed to foster cooperation with other donors. ALSP contacted organizations involved in local governance issues to set up a roundtable program at the National Assembly with the staff from the National Assembly Regional Policy Analysis Department to initiate a local self government working group. This program is expected to occur during the first quarter of 2006.

ALSP met with the Eurasia Foundation and OSCE to discuss plans for a Corruption Forum for the end of the first quarter, 2006, at the National Assembly. The program will focus on National Assembly oversight of corruption and discuss the National Assembly's relationship to NGOs and the media in matters related to this issue.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

COP Eleanor Valentine announced at the beginning of September that she would be leaving the project to take on a new assignment departing Armenia October 7. DA Senior Associate, Jack Sullivan arrived in Yerevan at the end of September to work on a number of issues related to COP transition as well as undertaking STTA responsibilities in preparing an agenda for and facilitating the first LSAG meeting. Deputy COP John Armstrong took over the program in the interim.

Jill Pender assumed the COP position in Yerevan on November 8, 2005.

The ALSP II Work Plan for Year 2 was completed and submitted to USAID for approval, but was rejected and returned to Development Associates to be rewritten by the new COP. Pender submitted the revised workplan in mid December. The plan has not yet been approved.

E. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Problem:

Rejection of the Workplan submitted by the former COP due to its size (65 pages), repetitive contents and overall construction.

Remedial Action:

New COP Pender cut the size of the workplan in half while obtaining all programming initiatives.

Problem:

The MOU failed to designate a National Assembly contact, other than the Speaker. The previous contact, the Chief of Staff, told ALSP during the first week of November that he would be unable to serve as liaison under the new MOU and that only the Speaker could appoint the new liaison. The Speaker's schedule of out-of-country visits and sessions caused difficulties in arranging first contact with the new COP.

Remedial Action:

New COP met with the Speaker's personal staff and described the problem. The new COP requested ALSP staff to work closely with the Speaker's Office to identify a break in his schedule for a meeting. New COP continued executing program with other National Assembly staff in the interim. No major breaks in continuity reported. Liaison Group appointed before the end of December, 2005.

Problem:

The Speaker lacked knowledge of, or an understanding of the LSAG as outlined in the MOU, due in part to translation issues. He appeared to disagree with the LSAG concept upon his initial meeting with the new COP. Although the previous COP had forwarded a list of possible designees of LSAG to the Speaker, he did not express awareness of the list.

Remedial Action:

Flexible approach to implementation of the contents of the MOU required. New COP requested a team of liaisons to begin MOU implementation and focused instead on actual projects underway. Liaison team has become a "defacto LSAG" and membership is expected to broaden to include more staff representatives within the National Assembly. Also, ALSP is monitoring the constitutional implementation process to determine whether or not the new Rules of Procedure will include a committee responsible for administration activities. ALSP will analyze the proposed Law on the Rules of Procedure when it becomes available to review placement of an LSAG in the National Assembly's new structure.

Problem:

While intentions were to solicit bids for the staff and MP surveys foreseen in the PMP submitted to USAID for approval, the PMP was only approved in mid-September. NA Director of Human Resource Division was asked to review the questions on the staff survey and suggest new questions. DAI technical staff was reviewing the deputy survey to determine if adjustments to questions should be made or whether additional questions should be added. With the departure of DAI's COP Valentine, this review was never forwarded by DAI to the new COP.

Remedial Action:

Bids for the surveys foreseen in the PMP will be solicited and submitted to USAID for approval for surveys to be conducted during the spring, 2006 session of the National Assembly.

Problem:

The Procurement Plan offered to the new COP was insufficient to handle pressing IT problems at the National Assembly. The National Assembly had failed to submit its equipment inventory and later review determined that the IT department had internal problems infecting the overall computer system.

Remedial Action:

COP Pender ordered a top-to-bottom review of the IT system at the National Assembly. Pender also re-directed the intern pilot program to place technical or engineering interns in the IT office to provide greater support.

F. UNRESOLVED ISSUES OR CONSTRAINTS ON THE PROJECT

The LSAG matter remains unresolved. ALSP is continuing a flexible approach and will review this and any other outstanding matters for future resolution.

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

Contractor Name: Development Associates, Inc.
Contract No. AEP-I-00-00-00004-00
Quarterly Financial Report
Cumulative through 12/31/05

To No.	Country	Authorized Expenditures (\$)	Actual Expenditures (\$)	Balances (\$)	Estimated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
804	UGANDA	3,143,642	2,440,361.50	703,280.50	6/30/06	
805	ARMENIA II	2,483,853	900,816.85	1,583,036.15	8/31/07	
	TOTALS	5,627,495	3,341,178.35	2,286,316.656		

IV. RESULTS FROM COMPLETED TASK ORDERS

None this quarter.